Forensic Evidence

731.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to maintain credibility between the inmates and the facility's qualified health care professionals by establishing clear guidelines restricting facility health care professionals from participating in the collection of forensic evidence for disciplinary or legal proceedings.

731.1.1 DEFINITION

Definitions related to this policy include:

Forensic evidence - Physical or psychological data collected from an inmate that may be used against the inmate in disciplinary or legal proceedings.

731.2 POLICY

Qualified health care professionals of this facility are generally prohibited from participating in the collection of forensic evidence or performing psychological evaluations for disciplinary or legal proceedings.

Qualified health care professionals of this facility should not be involved in the collection of forensic evidence except when complying with state laws requiring the collection of blood samples from inmates, provided the inmate has consented to the procedure and staff are not involved in any punitive action against the inmate.

Qualified health care professionals of this facility may collect blood or urine for testing for alcohol or drugs when it is done for medical purposes and under a healthcare professional's order. Qualified health care professionals of this facility may conduct inmate-specific, court-ordered laboratory tests and examinations or radiology procedures with the consent of the inmate.

Qualified health care professionals of this facility are prohibited from being involved in the following procedures:

(a) Body cavity searches

(b) Psychological evaluations for use in adversarial proceedings

(c) Blood draws for lab studies ordered by the court, without inmate consent

(d) Any medical procedure, except emergency lifesaving measures, that does not have the inmate's written consent

It shall be the responsibility of the Sheriff or the authorized designee to arrange for appropriately trained professionals to collect forensic evidence for disciplinary or legal proceedings.

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